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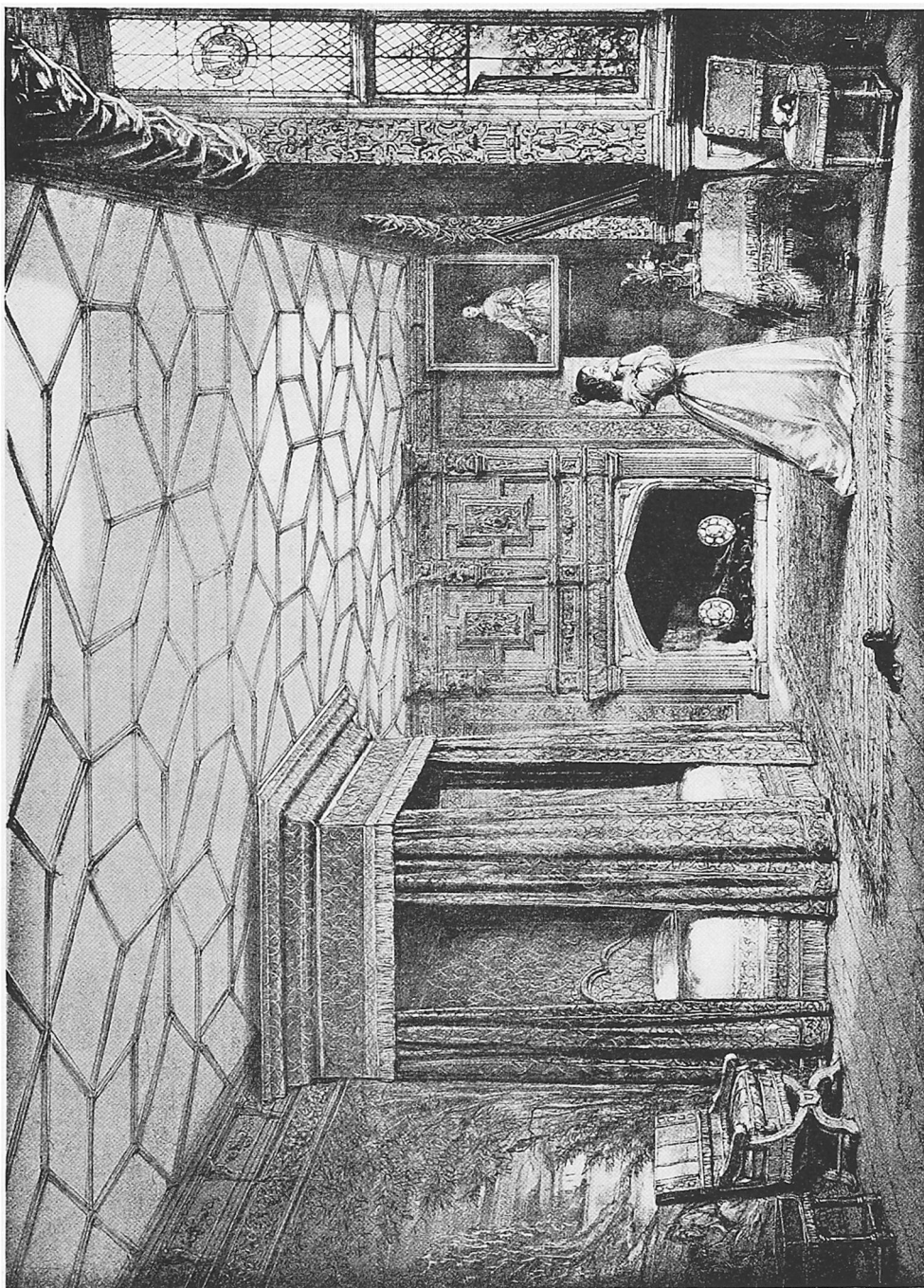
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Bed-Chamber at Knole, Kent

## INTERIORS AT KNOLE

IN London's last cause célèbre, the contest over the inheritance of Sir John Murray Scott's fortune, which was won by Lady Sackville, the preservation of a historic mansion was at stake. This mansion is Knole, in Kent, still a treasure-house of art, although some of the ancient tapestries, as described in a previous issue of *THE LOTUS*, were sold out of it to the late J. P. Morgan.

The bed-chamber, called for distinction "the spangled bed-chamber," doubtless from the character of the ceiling decoration, is a beautiful apartment. Even the furniture possesses historic interest. The whole of it was presented by James I. to Lionel, Earl of Middlesex, from whom it came into the possession of the Sackville family, through his daughter, who married the fifth Earl of Dorset. The bed is of rich crimson silk damask, embroidered in gold and silver, lined with satin of the same colour; and the chairs are en suite.

Conspicuous in the picture, this bed will be seen to the left of the composition and against the wall. It is canopied and the richness of the draperies, which are at the head, foot and sides of this example of antique furniture can be sensed from the picture. An ancient tapestry is on the wall, for by no means all the valuable textiles were sold out of Knole. The illustration shows the fireplace, with large fire-dogs and fagots, and a finely carved chimney-piece. To the right a lady stands before a table and mirror. The window is recessed

and has leaded panes. Through a portion that is open a tall flowering plant in the garden outside is seen.

And since Knole formed, in a way, the pivot on which the recent famous lawsuit turned, a description of other apartments in it should prove interesting. The cartoon gallery is so called from its containing copies by Van Dyck's contemporary, Daniel Myrtens, of six of the famous Raphael cartoons. Nash somewhat quaintly calls attention to the luxurious character of this gallery, describing it as a most elegant specimen of what may be done in a style sometimes stigmatized as barbarous and grotesque. "It would be difficult," he adds, "to find an interior more truly pleasant and stately, at the same time combining all the appearances of comfort, that we are apt to suppose our ancestors entirely neglected. The elegance of the design on the ceiling, the richness of the carved and painted pilasters and panels, the gorgeous hangings, pictures and furniture, and the superb marble chimney-piece, form a tout ensemble that it would be difficult to surpass with all the resources of modern taste. The windows of this, and indeed of several other apartments, are enriched with the armorial bearings of the Sackville and other families, executed in stained glass, with great accuracy." In this gallery, on June 29th, 1866, the Prince and Princess of Wales (afterwards Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra) dined with fifty-four

of the highest nobility, an occasion which, with all its eclat, but added another visit of royalty to those made at Knole in ancient times, as appears from the history of the mansion, which, almost entirely of the time of James I., yet occupies the site of a structure believed to have been standing as early as the Norman conquest.

The building, covering a space of more than three acres, consists of two large quadrangles erected on the site of a palace of the Archbishop of Canterbury, a circumstance that may account for the somewhat academic character of the structure. Of the episcopal palace the gate-house, which has been preserved, now forms a connection between the two quadrangles. This fine gateway is interesting from its determining the period when real fortifications in houses were abandoned. Built by Archbishop Bouchier about 1460, it was duly provided with machicoules, evidently not merely for show, but actually intended for use to protect the entrance against attack. There is an opening between the corbels that might have been used for throwing down stones or other missiles on the heads of assailants attempting to beat down the doors. But directly under this machicoulis the next Archbishop, Morton, threw out an oriel window for convenience and ornament only, thereby rendering the defense useless. Therefore it was in the time of Henry VII. that the old custom of fortifying dwelling-houses was abandoned.

It was in 1456 that Knole was purchased from Lord Saye and Sele by Archbishop Bouchier, who enclosed the park, rebuilt the house, and left the whole to the See, dying there in 1468.

Royal visits are recorded from the time of Cardinal Morton, his successor, who added largely to the palace, received visits there from Henry VII. and died there in 1500. The Archbishop Warham entertained Henry VIII. at Knole in 1504 and 1514. Cranmer, who lived there occasionally, resigned Knole to King Henry VIII.; and afterwards the estate passed through the usual succession of royal favourites—Queen Elizabeth herself visiting “her house at Knole” in 1573—until at length, about the year 1603, the property came into the possession of Thomas Sackville, Baron Buckhurst, Lord High Treasurer of Queen Elizabeth. It was this Thomas Sackville, the celebrated poet, afterwards first Earl of Dorset, who erected the principal portion of the present fabric at Knole, between the years 1605-1607.

In extent, beauty and variety of decoration, the interior of Knole is unsurpassed by any mansion of the same date in the kingdom, as may be judged by the richness of the bed-chamber and the description of the cartoon gallery. The house is full of ancient furniture, some of it of the time of Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth, though the greater portion belongs to the era when the house was rebuilt. Some of it was prepared to receive a visit from King James I. and left unaltered ever since, and of this especially the silver furniture suite in the bed-chamber is a part. The staircase adjoining the hall is considered a capital example of the style of the early part of the reign of James I., while the ancient lantern by which it is lighted has the homely contrivance of a notched rod for raising and lowering.